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Lewis William Otto to Susan Kean, November 8, 1788

Lewis William Otto

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Newyork Nov. 8th 1788.

Tho' we have not yet hear'd from You, my Dear Sister, we flatter ourselves that You are arriv'd with Your Family in very good health. We lamented the disagreeable beginning of your Voyage, which must have given You great uneasiness; however the Wind having been constantly fair We could only wish for its being less boisterous. — Very probably You are now peaceably settled in Your new Residence, where I still indulge the fond hope of paying You a very friendly visit. To tell you that I feel Your Loss very sensibly, would be useless; You know how many reasons I have to be invariably attached to you and Mr. Kean. — I am now almost alone in this town, where I have pass'd thro' so many interesting and dreadful Scenes. It now appears to me like a Stage, when the principal actors are gone.

My dear little Eliza walks now with the greater ease; she continues to be the Joy and Comfort of her Father & of the most indulging relations. I am

flattered with the expectation of hearing her first attempts to express her ideas; however trifling they may be you will know by your own experience that they are the most pleasing. Alas! she is yet ignorant of her having no Mother. — May she never feel the consequences of such a loss! —

M^{rs} Nickells, M^r & M^{rs} Livingston & the whole family are extremely well; M^r Bayard begins to recover of his Fall: M^r Houston will set out in a few weeks and leave his other self behind him; a resolution which supposes a degree of fortitude I should never have been capable of. Let me entreat you, my dear sister, never to consent to a separation of this kind. Life is so short, that not one day of happiness should be sacrificed to views of interest or convenience. — I have felt the displeasure of separation only during four and twenty hours; I have been obliged since to submit to a much harder trial. Indeed Life is so short, so precarious, that we must improve every moment of it.

The news of the Town you will probably receive by
an other Channel. I shall only observe that M^r and
Miss Pautzsch are setting out to morrow for Newark;
I believe they are regretted by their acquaintances, at least
they deserve to be so. Few Foreigners have taken so
much pain to please and to give satisfaction; if
they have not succeeded, the illiberality of the public
will be deservedly censured by an impartial Judge.

Please to present my warmest wishes to Your good
husband and to kiss my little Stephen in my name.
The southern climate must at least in this Season
agree with both and in Summer we hope to see
you here again.

M^{rs} Delacore, who sincerely loves and regrets
you, is prevented from writing by the weakness of
her Eyes. She sends her best compliments and hopes
to hear from you.

Be persuaded of the everlasting attachment
and gratitude of

Your affectionate Brother
L. W. O.

1788
Dear Mr Otto

Ans Otto 2 Nov 88